

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A portable computer configurable in a tablet configuration, a laptop configuration, and a closed configuration, said portable computer comprising:
 - 5 a display unit having said display device and a back surface;
 - a base unit having said primary input device and a bottom surface; and
 - a cover unit having a top section affixed to said back surface of said display unit, a middle section and a bottom section, said bottom section having a front portion affixed to said bottom surface of said base unit, wherein
 - 10 said middle section of said cover unit is in contact with said back surface of said display unit when said portable computer is in the closed configuration,
 - said middle section and said bottom section form a support for said display unit when said portable computer is in said laptop configuration, and
 - said middle section is in contact with said bottom section and said back surface of said display unit when said portable computer is in said tablet configuration.
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2. The portable computer according to claim 1, wherein said back surface of said display unit is positioned above said primary input device of said base unit when said portable computer is in said tablet mode.
- 20 3. The portable computer according to claim 1, wherein said primary input device and said display device are between said back surface of said display unit and said

bottom surface of said base unit when said portable computer is in said closed configuration

4. The portable computer according to claim 1, wherein said cover unit is made of a flexible material.

5 5. The portable computer according to claim 1, wherein said cover unit has a seam between said middle section and said top section.

6. The portable computer according to claim 1, wherein said cover unit has a seam between said middle section and said bottom section.

10 7. The portable computer according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of said middle section and said top section is substantially equal to the thickness of said base unit.

15 8. The portable computer according to claim 1, further including a latching assembly capable of being selectively changed from an open state to a closed state, said latching assembly having a first portion coupled to said display unit and a second portion coupled to said base unit, wherein said latching assembly is changed to said closed state to maintain said portable computer in one of said tablet configuration and said closed configuration.

20 9. The portable computer according to claim 8, said latching assembly further including a latching arm having a first projection and a latch body having a first cavity adapted to receive said first projection to maintain said portable computer in one of said closed configuration and said tablet configuration.

10. The portable computer according to claim 9, said latching arm further including a second projection, wherein said first cavity is also adapted to receive said second projection, and further wherein said first projection is received by said first cavity to maintain said portable computer in said closed configuration, and further
5 wherein said second projection is received by said first cavity to maintain said portable computer in said tablet configuration.

11. The portable computer according to claim 9, said latching arm further including a second projection and said latch body further including a second cavity adapted to receive said second projection, wherein said first projection is received by said
10 first cavity to maintain said portable computer in said closed configuration, and further wherein said second projection is received by said second cavity to maintain said portable computer in said tablet configuration.

12. The portable computer according to claim 1, wherein said base unit and said cover unit are integrated.

13. The portable computer according to claim 1, wherein said cover unit is removably attached to said back surface of said display unit.

14. The portable computer according to claim 1, wherein said cover unit is removably attached to said bottom surface of said display unit.

15. A method for reconfiguring a portable computer among a tablet configuration, a
20 laptop configuration, and a closed configuration, wherein said display device is

contained in a display unit and said primary input device is contained in a base unit, said method comprising:

folding a cover unit coupled to said base unit and said display unit such that a middle section of said cover unit and a portion of a bottom section of said cover unit form a supporting stand for said display unit when said portable computer is in said laptop configuration; and

folding said cover unit such that a top section of said cover unit lies above said middle section and said middle section lies above said bottom section when said portable computer is in said tablet configuration.

- 10 16. The method according to claim 15, further including closing a latching assembly when said portable computer is in said tablet configuration to couple said base unit to said display unit.
17. The method according to claim 16, further including opening said latching assembly when said portable computer is in said closed configuration.
- 15 18. The method according to claim 15, wherein said top section and said middle section have a combined thickness substantially equal to the thickness of said base unit.
19. The method according to claim 18, wherein said cover unit is folded at a seam between two of said top section, said middle section and said bottom section.

20. The method according to claim 18, wherein folding said cover unit to place said portable computer in said laptop configuration includes placing a lower portion of said display unit in contact with a rear surface of said base unit.